



The State of Utah  
Department of  
Natural Resources  
Division of  
Oil, Gas & Mining

ROBERT L. MORGAN  
Executive Director

LOWELL P. BRAXTON  
Division Director

OLENE S. WALKER  
Governor

GAYLE F. McKEACHNIE  
Lieutenant Governor

Representatives Present During the Inspection:

Company Johnny Pappas Sr. Environmental Engineer

OGM Pete Hess Environmental Scientist III

## Inspection Report

Permit Number:	C0070038
Inspection Type:	COMPLETE
Inspection Date:	Monday, August 23, 2004
Start Date/Time:	8/23/2004 9:15:00 AM
End Date/Time:	8/23/2004 1:00:00 PM
Last Inspection:	Tuesday, July 27, 2004

Inspector: Pete Hess, Environmental Scientist III

Weather: Sunny, clear, 80's F

InspectionID Report Number: 377

Accepted by: whedberg  
9/22/2004

Permittee: **PLATEAU MINING CORP**

Operator: **PLATEAU MINING CORP**

Site: **WILLOW CREEK MINE**

Address: **847 NW HWY 191, HELPER UT 84526**

County: **CARBON**

Permit Type: **PERMANENT COAL PROGRAM**

Permit Status: **ACTIVE**

Current Acreages

14,670.00	Total Permitted
161.55	Total Disturbed
	Phase I
	Phase II
	Phase III

Mineral Ownership

- ☒ Federal  
☐ State  
☐ County  
☒ Fee  
☒ Other

Types of Operations

- ☒ Underground  
☐ Surface  
☒ Loadout  
☐ Processing  
☐ Reprocessing

Report summary and status for pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Division Orders, and amendments:

The only special permit included in Attachment "A" of the current State permit is the requirement to submit quarterly water monitoring information to the Division via electronic submittals through the Division's web site. The permittee has been fulfilling this requirement since the second quarter of 2001.

Reclamation activities continue at the site. The back filling of the Mine portal area continues, with fill material being obtained from the Gravel Canyon area.

Inspector's Signature

Pete Hess, Environmental Scientist III

Inspector ID Number: 46

Date

Monday, August 23, 2004

**Note:** This inspection report does not constitute an affidavit of compliance with the regulatory program of the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining.

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## Inspection Continuation Sheet

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### REVIEW OF PERMIT, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS PERMIT CONDITION REQUIREMENTS

1. Substantiate the elements on this inspection by checking the appropriate performance standard.
  - a. For COMPLETE inspections provide narrative justification for any elements not fully inspected unless element is not appropriate to the site, in which case check Not Applicable.
  - b. For PARTIAL inspections check only the elements evaluated.
2. Document any noncompliance situation by reference the NOV issued at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
3. Reference any narratives written in conjunction with this inspection at the appropriate performance standard listed below.
4. Provide a brief status report for all pending enforcement actions, permit conditions, Divison Orders, and amendments.

	Evaluated	Not Applicable	Comment	Enforcement
1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Signs and Markers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Topsoil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.a Hydrologic Balance: Diversions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.b Hydrologic Balance: Sediment Ponds and Impoundments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.c Hydrologic Balance: Other Sediment Control Measures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.d Hydrologic Balance: Water Monitoring	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.e Hydrologic Balance: Effluent Limitations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Explosives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Disposal of Excess Spoil, Fills, Benches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Coal Mine Waste, Refuse Piles, Impoundments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Noncoal Waste	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Protection of Fish, Wildlife and Related Environmental Issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Slides and Other Damage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Contemporaneous Reclamation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Backfilling And Grading	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Revegetation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Subsidence Control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Cessation of Operations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.a Roads: Construction, Maintenance, Surfacing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16.b Roads: Drainage Controls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Other Transportation Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Support Facilities, Utility Installations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. AVS Check	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Air Quality Permit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Bonding and Insurance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**1. Permits, Change, Transfer, Renewal, Sale**

The only permit amendment currently under review within the Division is a revision to the reclamation plan for the Gravel Canyon area. As noted above, fill material from this area is being recovered to reclaim the portal highwall area at a 1.9 / 1 slope. Two deficiencies were aired within the Division's last technical review. The deficiencies were as follows: 1) upon reaching final surface configuration, the permittee must sample the soils, and 2) a longitudinal section of the reclamation channel must be provided, depending upon which scenario is selected. Mr. Pappas indicated that the cross section is being developed, and that the required sampling will be completed upon establishment of the final surface configuration in the area.

**2. Signs and Markers**

The "Danger-Keep Out" signs which had been previously posted on the barricades about the Crandall Canyon #1 and #2 air shafts are missing. Mr. Pappas agreed to replace the signs as soon as possible. All other signs about the property appear to be in good repair.

**3. Topsoil**

The area which was previously occupied by the main topsoil pile location (in Willow Creek Canyon) has had all soil volume recovered. The remaining soils have been regraded, roughened, mulched, and seeded. Topsoil has been placed on approximately 40% of the slope associated with the portal highwall area. Same has been roughened, seeded, and mulched.

**4.b Hydrologic Balance: Sediment Ponds and Impoundments**

The following sediment containments have been backfilled, roughened, seeded and mulched; 002A, 012A and 012B. Pond 011A has been backfilled; roughening, seeding and mulching remain to be completed in this area. The only pond remaining at the site is pond 001A, which has been kept to provide sediment control for the main Mine facilities area. The access road going down into pond 1(used for pond cleaning purposes) is covered with one large boulder, and numerous smaller boulders. The boulders came from the gouging of the slope above the access road. Mr. Pappas is aware that the road must be cleared prior to Nielsen Construction removing their machinery from the site.

**4.c Hydrologic Balance: Other Sediment Control Measures**

The backfilled pond 002A has been roughened, seeded, and mulched to provide sediment control for the area. Similarly, the reclaimed area between the exit of the short tunnel and the entrance of the long tunnel (located on the opposite side of the Willow Creek drainage) has been roughened, seeded, and mulched. Both areas were noted in the July report as being without adequate sediment control, being immediately adjacent to the Willow Creek channel.

**4.d Hydrologic Balance: Water Monitoring**

The permittee uploaded the second quarter of 2004 water monitoring information to the Division web page on August 5, 2004.

**4.e Hydrologic Balance: Effluent Limitations**

Discharge monitoring reports for the last several months were reviewed for timely submittal. All were reported as having "no discharge". All had been submitted in a timely fashion. The permittee continues to submit discharge monitoring reports for the ponds which have been reclaimed, as well as for pond 001A.

**7. Coal Mine Waste, Refuse Piles, Impoundments**

The reclamation of the School House Canyon waste rock facility, and its associated access road has been completed. Mr. Layne Jensen, Utah registered professional engineer conducted the second quarter 2004 waste rock pile inspection in May. That inspection was P.E. certified on August 18, 2004. Although the School House Canyon waste rock facility has had its reclamation completed, Mr. Pappas indicated that it is his intent to continue to conduct the quarterly P. E. inspections and certifications until final bond release is given in that area. The requirement of R645-301-514.224 will be maintained until Phase III release is granted by the Division.

**8. Noncoal Waste**

Various steel items were being recovered by hand from the slopes which had been roughened, seeded, and mulched along the preparation plant access road. These were being recovered for proper disposal. The permittee continues to retain a small area of the incisement created for the thickener pond for disposal of approved noncoal waste items. Same will be retained until all concrete waste is recovered and buried here, and reclamation will then be completed of the entire area.

**9. Protection of Fish, Wildlife and Related Environmental Issues**

The spill prevention control and counter measure plan for the Willow Creek site was last certified by Mr. John Borla, P.E., on November 1, 2002. As indicated by Mr. Pappas this day, the storage tanks for the diesel fuel and gasoline located near the old location of the main wash plant building will be dismantled and sold.

**11. Contemporaneous Reclamation**

There is no indication being given as to when the rail loading facilities which are located adjacent to the Price River are to be dismantled.

**12. Backfilling And Grading**

As noted elsewhere, the back filling and grading of the portal highwall area continues. Mr. Pappas anticipates that all reclamation work will be completed by September 15. It is the permittee's intent to conduct an aerial flyover of the site as part of the final surface configuration approval process on or near October 1, 2004.

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**14. Subsidence Control**

The backfilled material which had been placed in the Crandall Canyon #1 air shaft on July 29th appears to have settled approximately one foot.

**18. Support Facilities, Utility Installations**

Upon completion of the back filling activities on the portal highwall area, the fence around the main electrical substation will be re-installed. Power in the substation has been de-energized which the trucks obtain access through this area.

**19. AVS Check**

The Willow Creek Mine reclamation project and Plateau Mining Corporation have recently gone through a transfer of ownership from RAG Coal International to Foundation Coal Company.

**21. Bonding and Insurance**

New general liability insurance coverage has been provided for the new corporate ownership, Foundation Coal Company. A coverage amount for the general aggregate of \$6,000,000 has been provided; an amount of 1.5 million dollars is provided for each occurrence. Coverage for damages incurred from the use of explosives is provided. The term of coverage dates from July 30, 2004 through July 30, 2005. A new bond in the amount of \$7,866,000 has also been provided to the Division; however, the permittee still needs to provide statements of qualification for the individuals signing the reclamation bond agreement for the permittee. Hence, final Division approval of the new bond is pending.